

To Correspondents.
E. S. Rome—Yours of the 25th ult. was received on the 14th inst. We cannot furnish the Tri-weekly as you desire, the book numbers being exhausted. The section is also now out of the close. Please inform us what to do with the dollar. Suppose you try the Weekly six months?
H. S. Colburn—That "engraving" does not amount to much, being only a "card proof." We don't know what will be done in the printer, but will "keep our eyes on you." Why don't you "take the papers?"

Constitutional Reform.
Although it seems to be decided, that no convention shall be called at present, to revise the constitution of this State, we yet feel disposed to call public attention to some reforms, which we regard as desirable.

Our views of the representative character of the Judiciary department, have been given in a previous article. That this representative character may be effectually maintained, and its responsibilities properly enforced, we conceive that principle and sound policy alike dictate, that all judicial officers should be elected by the people. This proposition, though it is not now entirely new, was at the first regarded, by many sound republicans, as a dangerous innovation upon former usage; and the objection has been urged, that the great mass of the people could not be supposed to have that perfect acquaintance with the particular qualifications of individuals, which is regarded as necessary to a wise selection. This objection would apply with greater or less force, to every office now filled by the popular choice; and it is to be observed, that the reason is constantly losing its force, from the fact, that the law is every day becoming more a popular science, and that as intelligence increases and becomes more diffused, the objection will have less ground than even now. But there is a great fundamental principle, lying at the bottom of the proposition, which is, that the people are the source and depositories of all power, and to them belongs its exercise, and to them all public officers are directly responsible. If then, we desire in good faith to conform in all respects, to the true principles of our government, if we would carry into practical effect what we profess, namely, the doctrine that the people are qualified, both by intelligence and virtue, to exercise all the powers resident in them, we can find no sufficient warrant for making the Judiciary an exception to the great principle of universal suffrage.

The public mind has too long labored under an indefinite notion, of the inviolability and independence of judicial officers. This idea had an honest origin, under a different form of government. In the days of the star-chamber and commissions courts, it was the odious practice of the king, to either procure the judges to violate their conscience and the constitution, for the purpose of condemning those whom he found it convenient to ruin, or to place on the bench those supple tools of tyranny who had no conscience to violate, and to whom oaths, constitutions and laws, were idle tales. This was invading the independence of judges, and violating the sacredness of judicial institutions. It would have been but justice, nay, it was a solemn duty of the kings of England, to place men in judicial stations, who had the highest regard to the genius of the existing government, and to the constitutional principles which controlled its administration. The same is true in this country, excepting in the circumstance, that here the sovereignty is in the hands of the people, and their will is both sovereign, and the highest law possible to human institutions. The reason of the rule for which we contend, becomes in this view imperative. Leaving such appointments in the hands of the chief magistrate, is one of those badges of monarchy which have survived among us, in spite of the republican basis of our governmental regulations in general. The people now elect the inferior magistrates, and in some States, those of the higher grade; and wherever the experiment has been tried, it has been found to be eminently successful. So will be every reform which shall have for its basis the noble principle, that the people are in all respects capable of self-government.

The Whig Party and the War.
We confess that we are astonished at the course of the Whig party in Congress and elsewhere, on the subject of the Mexican war. We had supposed that the scorching rebukes received by the Tories who opposed and condemned the war of the revolution, and the lasting infamy heaped upon the successors of the same party who again in 1812 espoused the cause of the common enemy against their own country, would have been sufficient warning to that party and to all parties, to avoid a similar course in all future time. But we were deceived in them,—we find them again as usual, giving "aid and comfort" to the public enemy by agitating in the councils of the nation the most distracting questions in the most critical and inauspicious times,—refusing to vote the necessary war duties,—vehemently condemning the administration, and publishing to the enemy that their cause is just, and giving them to understand that there is a large and powerful party in this country who sympathize with them! Their course is exactly the same now that it was in both our previous struggles with a foreign foe,—and the same crushing infamy which has rested and will forever rest upon the Tories of the revolution and the opposers of the late war, will also surely be visited by future generations upon their memory! Let them look to it!

Look Out!—The "old cock" is about again, and would be very happy to hear from his friends without a more pointed call;—especially some of those who have notes due about Christmas and New Year's. A few days will enable us to "catch up," and depend upon it, business must be hurried. We have been easy enough to satisfy any one; and being "pushed," we must "push" in turn. Hop it will be sufficient.

SOMEONE MURDER.—We learn from the New Cast (Id.) Courier, that on the morning of the 23rd ult., a Mr. John Shuman, living some eight or nine miles north of that place, was most inhumanly murdered by some unknown person or persons. He had risen from his bed, dressed himself, and stepped out of his house for some purpose, when he was attacked and so beaten and bruised, that he died in about an hour afterwards. When first discovered by his family, he was endeavoring to make his way into the house, but was so far gone as to be unable to give any information of the murder.

NEW PAPER.—We acknowledge the receipt of the Daily Madisonian, a very respectable sized sheet, just commenced at Madison, Ind., by Messrs. Foster & Reed. It seems to be neutral in politics. It should be sustained by the Madisonians, as therein depends its sufficiency and success. The proprietors have our best wishes.

Governor Young and Lieut. Gov. Gardner. of New York, were sworn into office on the 1st of January, in the Capitol, at Albany. Ex-Governor Young was present, and congratulated his successor. The oaths of office were administered by Mr. Benton, Secretary of State.

Information was received yesterday by Telegraph, says the Pittsburgh Post, that delegates in the city and county of Philadelphia in favor of Governor Shank's re-nomination had been carried by large majorities. Also that York county had gone in the same way. This it is said may be regarded as decisive as to his re-nomination.

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I fear that none write communications in favor of the immediate prosecution of that road beyond St. Louis, except interested persons who contemplate in some way or other to have some stealings from it.

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The effect of this repudiation of a Lieutenant-General would have been, as it was considered here, to interpose that officer, in the person of Mr. Benton, between the President and Congress, and relieve the President from a portion of his just responsibility. Congress cannot desire that Mr. Polk shall take the field in person himself, and it follows that they expect him to carry on the war or make a peace by aid of military or diplomatic officers now known to the laws.

We have every hour additional evidence of the utter and uncompromising hostility of the House to a duty on tax and coffee. What plan for meeting the known deficit in the means of the treasury for this and the next fiscal year will be adopted cannot be foreseen. The loan will fail unless Congress authorize one at seven per cent, and will allow even that to be repudiated below par, and this Congress will not do. Revenue adequate to the payment of the interest on the loans, and the ordinary expenditures also of the Government, must be raised, and the question is, what new tax shall be imposed?

It seems probable that the only mode that the House will agree to will be an increase of the rate of duty on articles now dutiable, up to the highest revenue standard, and the imposition of an excise on distilled spirits. The reduction and graduation bill may add a million and a half to the revenue; but it is yet uncertain whether it will become a law. The Senate have made it the order of the day for Monday next.

The next subject of importance is the exclusion of slavery from the territories to be acquired from Mexico. On this point the House will be inexorable.

There are symptoms that this question will shake the present foundation of things in political parties.

The next important question is that relative to the improvement of rivers and harbors, and here the Administration is in a fearful minority; and the question is gathering so much strength that it alone can destroy an adverse party.